

# Sources of Assistance to Landowners with Phragmites Invasions





# Potential Sources of Assistance to Landowners: “Slim Pickens”

## **Free Technical Advice**

DCR - Division of Natural Heritage, USDA Extension, TNC...

## **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program - WHIP**

Administered by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

## **Virginia Invasive Species Council**

Contact DCR or Secretary of Natural Resources

## **New Legislation to Provide Phragmites Cost-share Program?**

Contact an elected official near you

## **Follow the RPAC Model**

Band together with other private landowners & pool resources





# Free Advice From DCR Division of Natural Heritage staff:

- Dot Field – Eastern Shore (757) 787-5576
- Kevin Heffernan – Richmond (804) 786-9112
- Curtis Hutto – Richmond (804) 692-0479
- Rick Myers – Richmond (804) 371-6204



# Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- USDA-NRCS administered Farm Bill Program
- Landowners enter into 5- to 10-year contracts with NRCS
- Costs for practices are reimbursed at a pre-approved per-unit rate
- Phragmites (and other invasive species control project applications) are considered by State Technical Committee WHIP Sub-committee for funding
- Apply at USDA Service Center – NRCS Office



# Virginia Invasive Species Council

- Created by Virginia General Assembly in 2003
- Council consists of Secretary of Natural Resources (Chairman) plus eight State Agency Directors (VDACS, DCR, VIMS, VMRC, DOF, DGIF, DOH, VDOT)
- Receives information and advice from Advisory Committee comprised of private and public stakeholders
- Operates with \$0.00 budget; DCR provides staff support
- Will “sunset” in 2006 unless reauthorized by General Assembly



# Virginia Invasive Species Council

Purpose is to:

1. Develop a Statewide Invasive Species Strategic / Management Plan for Virginia
2. Foster state agency communication and coordination on invasive species issues
3. Make recommendations to General Assembly on invasive species issues



# Phragmites Control State Cost-share Program

- Virginia **does not** have a program
- Maryland has one
- Created by MD state legislature in 1996
- Administered by MD Dept. of Natural Resources
- Covers specified coastal counties
- Provides up to 50% reimbursement for control costs to individual landowners



# Landowner Organizations and Community Involvement: The RPAC Model

- RPAC = Rappahannock Phragmites Action Committee
- Partnership of private citizens and landowners, state and federal governments, and non-governmental organizations
- Initiated by private citizens in Essex County, Virginia
- Objective is to halt the spread of invasive populations of Phragmites in the lower Rappahannock River watershed
- Provides help with identification, monitoring, control, and financial assistance
- Contact: Tidewater RC&D at (804) 443-1118